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decompressed to produce a processed digital audio signal ready to be output to the subscriber's stereo or directly to speakers.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2, 36, 44, 46, 61, 63, 81, 117, and 119.

Please amend claims 1, 23, 37, 45, 62, 80, 104, 110, and 118 as follows:

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1. (Amended) A hardware upgrade for a set top terminal, the hardware upgrade comprising:
an interface to the set top terminal through which a subscriber selection and digital audio signals that represent audio programs are received from the set top terminal, wherein the set top terminal comprises a receiver that receives television program signals and the digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;
audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber selection; and
an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber selection.

23. (Twice Amended) A set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system, wherein the digital audio signals represent audio programs;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a first hardware upgrade comprising:

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an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

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37. (Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:

a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

45. (Amended) A method for receiving audio programs at a set top terminal capable of receiving audio/visual programs in addition to the audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs from a television program delivery system using a receiver in the set top terminal;

receiving subscriber selections;

tuning to one of the digital audio signals representing the audio programs using a tuner based on one or more of the received subscriber selections;

processing the tuned digital audio signal; and

outputting the processed digital audio signal.

62. (Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding

video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the receiver, that processes the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

80. (Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

means for receiving subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection;

means, connected to the means for receiving the audio/visual programs and the audio programs, for processing the digital audio signals representing the audio programs, wherein the means for processing comprises means for tuning to a selected audio program based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

means, connected to the means for processing, for outputting a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

104. (Amended) A cable television set top terminal comprising:

a receiver that receives television program signals and digital audio signals from a television program delivery system;

a first hardware upgrade connected to the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade is capable of receiving the digital audio signals from the set top terminal, wherein the first hardware upgrade further comprises:

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audio processing circuitry, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected digital audio signal; and
one or more additional hardware upgrades connected to the set top terminal.

110. (Amended) A system for delivery and reception of audio programs, the system comprising:
a television program delivery system adapted to deliver television program signals, including HDTV audio visual signals, and digital audio signals, wherein the digital audio signals represent the audio programs; and

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a set top terminal operably connected to the television program delivery system, the set top terminal comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the television program signals and the digital audio signals from the television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection; and

a hardware upgrade comprising:

an interface to the set top terminal through which the digital audio signals and the subscriber audio program selection are received from the set top terminal;

audio processing circuitry, connected to the interface, that processes the digital audio signals, wherein the audio processing circuitry comprises a tuner that tunes to a selected audio program in the received digital audio signals based on the received subscriber audio program selection; and

an output, connected to the processing circuitry, that outputs a selected audio signal that represents the selected audio program based on the subscriber audio program selection.

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118. (Amended) An apparatus capable of receiving audio/visual programs, including HDTV programs, and audio programs, an audio/visual program being represented by an audio signal accompanied by a corresponding video signal, and an audio program being represented by a digital audio signal only, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver adapted to receive the audio/visual programs and the audio programs from a television program delivery system;

a subscriber interface adapted to receive subscriber inputs including a subscriber audio program selection;